

# Morongo Band of Mission Indians



## Elected Officials:

Chairman: Robert Martin

Vice-Chairperson: Mary Ann Andreas



Chairman Martin

**Environmental Director:** Dana Morey

**Land Base:** 32,361 Acres

**Primary Economy:** Morongo Casino, Resort and Spa, A&W Restaurant, travel center (with 36 gas pumps), Hadley Food Orchards, Morongo Golf Club at Tukwet Canyon, and Arrowhead Mountain Spring Water bottling plant.

**Population and Poverty (2010 Census):** 1100

Residents live on the reservation; 36.5% live below the poverty level.

**Education Attainment (of persons over 25):** 85.2% have at least a high school diploma; 5% have a bachelor's or graduate degree.

## EPA funding (Fiscal Year 2018)

Clean Water Act 106	\$180,000
Clean Water Act 319	\$30,000
Clean Air Act 103	\$147,000
General Assistance Program	\$124,643
National Clean Diesel Funding	\$167,458
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$649,101</b>

## Tribal Set-Aside Drinking Water Infrastructure

2011	\$800,000
2012	\$789,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,589,350</b>



Approximate Location of Tribal Land

## Air Quality

The Morongo Air Program oversees the Title V Permit which allows the Casino's Cogeneration Facility to be in compliance with EPA standards and allows the Tribe, not an outside agency, to monitor the emissions of the Facility. The Tribe also monitors ambient air quality for 8-hour and 1-hour ozone and PM2.5. Although air quality on the reservation has been improving; monitoring records show violations of the 8-hour ozone standard, some of which is the result of the reservation's location downwind of the Los Angeles metropolitan area. Also, some of the Morongo Reservation is included in the South Coast Air Basin ozone nonattainment area.

At the request of the Tribe, EPA designated their air quality planning area as a separate area for all of the ozone standards and designated the tribe as their own nonattainment area, the Morongo Tribe nonattainment area. They are designated with a lower classification than the surrounding South Coast nonattainment area that reflects Morongo's air quality. This is the subject of ongoing litigation between EPA and South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Contact: Ken Israels, Grants and Program Integration Office, 415-947-4102

### **Diesel Emission Reduction Act Funding**

In FY 2010, EPA awarded the Tribe \$250,000 to install diesel particulate filters on four school buses, a charter bus, a dump truck, and a water truck; and to replace two diesel school buses with CNG powered buses.

Contact: Romie Duarte, Office of Regional Administrator, 213-244-1801

### **General Assistance Program/ Pollution Prevention**

The Morongo P2 Program ensures all solid and hazardous wastes are disposed of properly and in compliance with applicable Federal, State and Tribal laws. The Tribe must comply with the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) as well as California Code of Regulations because the Tribe's wastes are disposed of outside the Reservation. In addition, the Tribe has passed an Environmental Code dictating rules and regulations for solid and hazardous waste disposal on the Reservation.

The program manages a curbside residential recycling program as well as a recycling program for the Tribal Administration Departments, Tribal Enterprises, and the Morongo Casino Resort & Spa. The Tribe is diverting increasing amounts of their refuse to a Materials Recovery Facility.

In Quarter 1 of Fiscal Year 2018, the environmental department helped the Morongo Casino recycle 17.18 tons in October and 22.37 tons in November of 2017. Of this, 255 pounds were fluorescent lamps. Morongo residents and businesses recycled 6.37 tons in October and 1.05 tons in November.

Contact: Nicholas Anderson, Tribal Program Office, 415-972-3865

### **Drinking Water Infrastructure – Tribal Set-Aside**

The Tribe received funding in FY12 (\$1,589,350) for a project that provided replacement of failing components (water transmission mains) of the Morongo Public Water System, providing protection from microbial contamination of the drinking water system due to low pressures and backflow conditions.

Contact: Helen McKinley, Drinking Water Office, 415-972-3559

### **Drinking Water Public Water Systems (PWSs)**

The Morongo reservation has 2 public water systems. One is run by the Morongo Tribal Community and the other is a Nestle's bottled water plant. Both systems are extremely well run.

Contact: Jason Gambatese, 415-972-3571

**Drinking Water Compliance & Enforcement:** All public drinking water systems are currently in compliance

### **Enforcement Targeting Tool (ETT) Scores/Jan.2018**

Morongo Tribe/Population 16,000/ETT Score = 0 **Nestle**

Facility Morongo/Population 200/ETT Score = 0

Contact: Everett Pringle, 415-972-3548

### **Water Quality**

Environmental staff routinely conducts surface and ground water quality monitoring to measure the chemical and physical characteristics of tribal waters. The Tribe has used that data to help put together a draft Treatment as a State application for CWA 303 and 401: Water Quality Standards and Certification Programs which they submitted in October 2016. The Region plans to publish a notice for comments on their application in February 2016.

Contact: Danielle Angeles, Water Division Tribal Office, 415-972-3441

### **Environmental Review Section**

I-10 Bypass (Banning to Cabazon) Project, Riverside County, CA: Caltrans District 8 and the County of Riverside are proposing to construct a 2-lane roadway, 3.3 miles in length, connecting the city of Banning to the unincorporated community of Cabazon just south of the I-10 freeway in Riverside County, CA. Approximately 20 years after completion of the 2-lane roadway, an additional 2 lanes would be incorporated into the project, resulting in a 4-lane roadway at full build-out. The stated purpose of the project is to provide a local roadway in what is, at present, a largely undeveloped area to facilitate local access between these two communities. One of the alternatives analyzed in the EA would involve building a portion of the road on roughly 14 acres of land owned by the Morongo Band of Mission Indians; this alternative would subsequently require an easement to maintain and operate the road. It seems as though the tribe is supportive of the project due to its ability to improve local mobility and its consistency with their long-term development plans. EPA is currently drafting comments on the proposed comments, and will be submitting a letter to Caltrans by April 30, 2018.